

(From the London News.)

The Emperor's Visit to the French Constitution.
PARIS, Dec. 15.—I have to-day heard a very curious story—most interesting if true—and a story which, although it can hardly have been made public without a breach of confidence, and therefore must be received with a certain amount of mistrust, I find confirmed upon enquiry in so many quarters, that I cannot resist the belief that there must be some truth in it. I am informed that an extraordinary council was convoked by the Emperor on Friday last to consider the question, whether it might not be expedient, under existing circumstances, to revise the constitution, with a view to increase the popularity of the government by calling upon the nation to take a more active part in public affairs.

At this council all the ministers were present except M. Bineau, who is ill. There were also present MM. Troplong and Mesnard, the president and vice president of the Senate, MM. Baroche and Rouher, president and vice president of the Council of State, M. de Morny, president of the Corps Legislatif, and M. Pietri, the Prefect of Police. The Emperor opened the proceedings in a terse speech, which seemed to have been learned by heart. He said, in substance, that the gravity of the situation induced him to ask their frank opinions. He believed peace to be probable, but it was not necessary to make material and moral preparations for war. He desired to be advised whether, in case the war should go on, it would be desirable to introduce some modifications into the constitution of the empire favorable to the liberty of the tribune and the liberty of the press.

He wished also that the council would consider the same question on the supposition of peace being concluded. M. Troplong forcibly and almost violently argued that no change should be made. He maintained that the safety of the government and of society depended upon the maintenance of the dictatorial system inaugurated in December, 1851. M. Bineau took the lead on the other side. On the suggestion of a member of the council, it was decided by the Emperor that the two questions he had put should be considered together, since he believed, on reflection, that the internal regime, which might be good in time of war, would be equally desirable in time of peace. On a division, the council resolved, by a majority of 9 against 5, that some alterations were desirable, that there was something to be done. The members who voted in the minority were MM. Troplong, Fould, Mesnard, Morny, and Magne. The Emperor, it is said, listened patiently, as his wont is, to all the observations that were made, and at the end of the sitting thanked the members of the council for their advice, without giving any indication of his own opinion. You will remember that when Lord Palmerston was in Paris, a rumor was current that he had suggested to the Emperor the advisability of considering the question now said to have been mooted at the council.

The Distinguished Dead of 1854.

Probably it will be conceded that not so many distinguished men saw their "last" in 1854 as in some previous periods. Yet the past year has been noted for great and sweeping calamities on land and sea, which have each carried off its victims, who were the centre, and where their loss was felt as strongly "as when a giant dies."

On the 14th of January, the death of Lord Plunkett was announced. He had been Chancellor of Ireland, and was the last of that constellation of Irish orators that made the bar of Ireland so luminous some fifty years ago. He was 90 years of age.

Viscount Bessford, a noted English general, died on the 8th of January. He served in Egypt, Ireland, the Cape of Good Hope, and Buenos Ayres. He was in the Peninsula under Wellington, commanding the united forces of the Portuguese and English in Portugal, where, as Marshal Bessford, he gained the battle of Albuera over Soult.

Thomas H. Perkins, a distinguished merchant of Boston, died on the 10th of January, aged 89.

On the 16th, Captain Alden Partridge aged 70, of Norwich, Vermont, long and favorably known as a military instructor.

Judah Touro, a distinguished member of the Hebrew nation, at New Orleans, January 18, aged 79. He was especially distinguished for his benevolence and the proper uses to which he applied his great wealth.

Some time during the month, the Marquis of Londonderry, who distinguished himself in the army of Wellington, and subsequently as a statesman.

Jan. 7th, Count Thibaudon, at Paris, the last survivor of the convention that voted death to Louis XVI.

Jan. 13th, Thomas Noon Talford, one of the judges of England.

Selah B. Hobbs, Assistant Postmaster General of the United States, Jan. 21st, aged 67.

Jan. 22d, M. de Bodisco, Russian Ambassador to the United States, aged 70.

Feb. 1st, at Turin, Italy, Silvio Pellico, aged 61, a distinguished Italian writer.

March 27th, the reigning Duke of Parma was stabbed in his capital.

April 3d, Professor Wilson, a distinguished Scotch writer, known as the Christopher North of Scotland. His best poetical productions were the Isle of Palms and the City of the Plague. He wrote the Lights and Shades of Scottish Life.

April 29th, Marquis of Anglesea, aged 86. He was much distinguished as a military officer, and probably ranked in England next to Wellington. He lost a leg at the battle of Waterloo.

April 30th, James Montgomery, aged 82. He was well known as an English poet, and his works were universally read. They are noted for piety and purity of thought, beauty of diction and sweetness of numbers.

May 23d, John Smith, Patriarch of the Church of Latter Day Saints at Salt Lake City.

May 25th, Admiral Hyde Parker, a well known English naval commander.

On the 1st of June, Mrs. Emily Judson, (Emily Chubbuck) widow of Dr. Judson, the missionary, whose writings under the name of "Fanny Forrester" are well known.

Thomas Ritchie, long known as the editor of the Richmond Enquirer, and as the most powerful political writer of the Southern States, died on the 3d of July, aged 76.

Count Casimir Bathiany, a distinguished Hungarian exile, died at Paris, July 12th, aged 46.

On the 14th of July, Abbas Pasha, Viceroy of Egypt. He was the grandson of Mehmet Ali, and the nephew of Ibrahim Pasha, whom he succeeded.

July 16th, N. B. Blunt, a well known lawyer of New York City, aged 52.

In New York, August 4th Don Jose Barandina, Minister of Honduras to the United States, aged 70.

August 10th, the King of Saxony was killed by a fall from his carriage.

Near Metz, on the 11th, General Paixhan, aged 72, known for the invention of a piece of artillery that bears his name.

Rev. Leonard Woods, D. D., an able theologian, died at Andover, Aug. 24th, aged 80.

Sept. 21st, Right Rev. Jonathan Wainwright, D. D., Bishop of New York, aged 62. He was a man highly respected and beloved.

Sept. 29th, Marquis in the Crimea, died there. He had been noted in the French wars in Algeria.

Oct. 1st, Mrs. Anne Royal, well known at Washington some years ago.

Nov. 9th, at Washington, Mrs. Elizabeth

Hamilton, widow of Alexander Hamilton, aged 97.

Nov. 11th, Charles Kemble, a distinguished English actor, aged 79.

On the 25th of Oct., John Gibson Lockhart, aged 63. He was an illustrious English writer, editor of the Quarterly, and son-in-law of Sir Walter Scott, whose biography is one of the ablest of his works.

Dec. 10th, Mrs. Anne Bayard, widow of James A. Bayard, aged 77, whose father, husband and two sons have been United States Senators.

Dec. 27th, Thomas W. Dorr, of Rhode Island, who will long be remembered as the leader of the rebellion against the constitutional authority of that State in 1841.

Dec. 28th, ex-Governor Morehead, of Kentucky, aged 68.

NIGHT RUNNING UP RAILROADS.—We have some times heard it remarked by timid persons that they would not travel by night on a railroad, the impression being that there is more danger of accidents in the dark than during daylight. Upon first thought this would seem to be the fact; but a writer in the Railroad Advocate takes a different view of the matter, and certainly makes out a good case.

He says that many circumstances which make night running comparatively safe, all work upon the track is stopped. Comparatively few other trains are on the road. No drawbridge would ever be likely to remain open in the night. Switches are more likely to be right than at other times, as they are not in use for other trains, and are locked. The signals made for the night trains being made by lights, would scarcely fail to be observed and obeyed, and the train would be kept at a greater distance than any other signal in daylight. The engineer has less to attract his attention than in the day time. While, after all, a rock or tree falling across a bend in the track in broad daylight, or an intended obstruction, is nearly as much a "hidden danger" as if encountered in the night. There are many places, nearly all, where some alteration would be desirable, that there was something to be done. The members who voted in the minority were MM. Troplong, Fould, Mesnard, Morny, and Magne. The Emperor, it is said, listened patiently, as his wont is, to all the observations that were made, and at the end of the sitting thanked the members of the council for their advice, without giving any indication of his own opinion.

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Further Particulars of the Fire and Loss of Life at Fort Washington.

The New York papers contain further particulars of the burning of the residence of John A. Haven, Esq., at Fort Washington, and the terrible deaths of his three daughters, who perished in the flames. On Saturday an inquest was held over the bodies of the three unfortunate girls, Ann Mary, Grace, and Sarah Haven, and the following, among other testimony, adduced:

John A. Haven, father of the deceased, being sworn, testified that it was his usual custom to examine his premises every night before retiring, and he did so on the occasion at about 12 o'clock; and finding all apparently safe retired to his room; but some time after was aroused by the cry of "fire;" got up and ordered all in the house to leave it. He could not say how the fire originated, but is satisfied that it broke out in the ash-room on the north-west corner of the building.

John M. Hopkins, brother-in-law of the deceased, testified that between three and four o'clock on Saturday morning he was called by Mrs. Haven, who informed him that their house was on fire. He proceeded to the house as soon as possible, and learned that some one of the family was still in the drawing-room. He procured a ladder, and by it went up to the window, and heard groans proceeding from inside the room. The smoke was very dense, and he reached his hand in and caught hold of Miss Anna, whom he rescued by the assistance of Mr. Connolly, and she is now recovered. Fifteen minutes after this Miss Ann Mary and Miss Grace were taken dead from the China cabinet in the drawing-room. Miss Sarah was also taken out dead.

Kate Lane, a waitress in the family, being sworn, stated that she retired about ten o'clock on the night in question, leaving two German girls ironing in the room, and a fire in the range, where they heated their smoothing irons; some hours after she was awakened by the cry of "fire," all other things being in her mind, she went to the door, and saw the coachman to assist in putting out the flames.

Miss Ellen, who asked her to get the silver from the closet; after calling the coachman she got into the dinner-room and handed out a draw which contained the silver; she then saw Miss Mary lying in the closet, and called out that such was the case.

Some other testimony was elicited, showing that at first all the family escaped in safety from the burning building; that subsequently some of the Miss Havens asked Kate Lane, one of the servants, to go into the dining-room and carry out the plate before the fire reached it, but the girl refused, fearing that she would be suffocated by the smoke, or burned to death in the attempt. Miss Sarah Langdon, who was in her night dress, then ran into the building, as it is supposed, for her clothes, and that was the last that was seen of her till her charred and blackened remains were found from the ruins. She was followed by her three sisters, Mary, Grace, and Anna, the two first of whom were suffocated. It was thought at first that they were in the building, but they would return immediately, but within three or four minutes elapsed without any of them making their appearance, and every room in the house appeared to be filled with smoke, the greatest apprehensions were felt for their safety.

Mrs. Haven had been at the house of her son-in-law, Mr. Hopkins, a short distance off, having been called and had returned, but a few minutes before the disappearance of her daughters. A considerable number of their neighbors had also collected, and every exertion was made to rescue them. After great effort, Miss Anna only was rescued, the other three having perished.

Dr. Philip O'Hanlon, who had examined the bodies, testified to the death of Miss Sarah L. Haven was caused by burns, her body having been found burned to a crisp, and the death of the other two deceased was caused by suffocation. The evidence was here closed, and the case was given to the jury, who rendered a verdict of death by burns in the case of Miss Sarah, and by suffocation in the case of Grace and Anna. Mrs. Haven, Sarah, and Grace were 26, 24, and 24 years of age, and Anna was 24, and Grace was 18 years of age.

The body of Sarah was found on Saturday beneath the ruins, greatly disfigured, and in a kneeling position, with her hands to her face, and her face to the ground. By the side of her were charred fragments of a wooden wardrobe, which she had probably taken to put on. The New York Times says:

The terrible news of the calamity reached this city on Saturday, about 10 a. m. It excited the liveliest interest and sympathy. The relations and friends of the family immediately set out to visit the scene. Rev. Dr. Osgood, pastor of Church of the Messiah, was among the number. The features of Mary were almost like those of her church. Mr. Haven being among its oldest members. He was very much affected, and mentioned among other things that Sarah had sent him, but a few weeks ago, a considerable sum of money, as a contribution of "the Sisters" for the poor.

The parents, as may be well conceived, are overwhelmed with grief. Mrs. Anna is in the residence of Mr. Connolly, and is recovering. Her throat is thought by Dr. Elliott to have been burned, as it is quite sore. She has not yet been told of the loss of her sisters.

On Sunday the bodies were at the house of Mr. Hopkins. That of Sarah was not shown. That of Grace was said to be but little changed, while the features of Mary were almost like those in their expression, with not even the hue of death. She seemed rather to be feigning asleep in tableau, and still retained the remarkable beauty of her life.

There were seven sisters in the family: Anna, who was rescued; Augusta, the wife of Mr. Hopkins; Sarah, Mary, and Grace, who were lost; and Helen and Emily, of whom was at school at the time in the city.

THE UNDERSIGNED would respectfully inform his friends and citizens generally that he has resumed the Grocery business, and is now located at the corner of Pennsylvania avenue and Third Street, near the old site of the old building.

He has a choice selection of Groceries, Teas, Wines, Liquors, Cigars, &c.

Special attention is invited to his assortment of Teas, Liquors, and Cigars, which he has selected with care, and for sale very low for cash.

R. D. TWEEDEY, Corner of Pennsylvania avenue and Third Street, south side.

HATS, HATS, HATS!—Temple of Fashion—Gentlemen in want of a superior style and well-fitting Hat, will do greatly to their advantage to call at the New York and Fur store.

BUTT & HOPKINS, Corner of 6th Street and Penn. avenue.

Dec 12—eo2wif

PRESENTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS M. W. GALT & BROTHER will open this day a magnificent assortment of Fancy Goods, Silverware, Fine China, Silver Card Cases, Card Trays, Porte Monnaies, and Bijouterie of every description.

Persons in want of presents would do well to make their selections from our stock, which is complete, and avoid the usual bustle of the holidays.

M. W. GALT & BROS., Penn. avenue, between 9th and 10th streets.

Dec 12—23

PARISH and other Pencillings, by Mrs. M. W. GALT & BROS., author of Letters to Bishop Hughes, Reminiscences of Home, &c. Harper's Story Books, by Jacob Abbott, price 25 cents.

Just received. R. FARNHAM, Dec. 15

THE AMERICAN SPORTSMAN, containing Hints to Sportsmen, Notes on Sporting, and the Habits of the Game Birds and Wild Fowl of America, by E. J. Lewis, M. D., with numerous illustrations. For sale at TAYLOR & MAURY'S, Bookstore, near 9th st.

Jan. 4

READY MADE CLOTHING.—Members of Congress wishing to provide themselves with Superior Garments for the Winter, will find an elegant assortment at

WALL & STEPHENS, Jan. 3—wif

NEW YEAR'S PRESENTS.—M. W. GALT & BROS. will open this day a magnificent assortment of Watches, Jewelry, Silverware, and Fancy Goods, suitable for presents, to which they invite the attention of purchasers.

M. W. GALT & BROTHER, Jan. 3—wif

THE NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL UNITED STATES MAIL STEAMERS.

The ships comprising this line are: The Atlantic, Captain West. The Pacific, Captain Nye. The Baltic, Captain Constable.

Congressional.

THIRTY-THIRD CONGRESS.

SECOND SESSION.

Senate—Tuesday, January 16, 1855.

A large number of petitions were presented to the Senate this morning, among which was one from the convention of old soldiers, who lately assembled in this city, one from eighty-three Indian veterans, who also rendered service to the United States, and one from sixteen hundred citizens in favor of the repeal of the Union, the cordially invited to contribute.

The Machinery Department will be under the charge of a special Superintendent. Steam power, fixtures, labor, &c., will be given free of expense. All intending to exhibit are requested to give notice as early as possible. Goods should be accompanied with a proper invoice.

The committee, therefore, feel that, in inviting contributions from all portions of the Union to the Second EXHIBITION OF THE METROPOLITAN MECHANICAL INSTITUTE, they are offering to the producers of the most valuable and reliable opportunity of making known to the whole country their utility and the superior style of their workmanship, and their adaptation to the purposes for which they may be intended.

They would respectfully solicit from the LADIES those specimens of elegant handiwork, which heretofore have formed so attractive and important features of the displays. It is proposed to submit all such contributions to a Committee of Ladies, and to award to articles of merit, premiums of jewelry, &c., suited to the tastes of the fairer sex.

The Hall will be opened for the reception of Goods, on Monday, the 29th day of January, and on the evening of Thursday, the 8th of February, 7 o'clock, the Exhibition will formally open for the reception of visitors, and continue open about four weeks.

No article deposited after Saturday night, 3d of February, can be entered upon the Judges' List for competition. For this reason, the Committee will be satisfied were dispatched from a distance in time to have reached the Hall by the 1st of the month, but failed to arrive from unavoidable detention.

Articles designed for exhibition only, will be received free of charge, until Tuesday night, 6th of February, at 10 o'clock; and articles of merit, deposited after that time, will be charged from 50 cents to \$1 for each article deposited.

Apprentices and minors, who contribute articles of their own make or invention, shall specify their names on the time they may have served at their business.

All articles deposited for competition and premium must be of American manufacture, conspicuously inscribed with appropriate names; the name of the maker and inventor, (if known), and the name of the depositor; a copy of which label must be furnished to the clerk at the time of bringing the article to the Hall, and to the clerk of the exhibition, or, not at the option of the exhibitor.

Depositors, at the time of entry, will receive a ticket of title to their goods, which ticket will also admit them to the Exhibition at all times when open to the public.

N. B.—Goods should be addressed as follows: "Exhibition of the Metropolitan Mechanical Institute, Washington, D. C." and should have the name of the articles, and the name of the party sending them, distinctly marked on the packages. They should also be accompanied by a detailed description.

Circulars, containing detailed instructions, will be forwarded, and any information given, on application to the Corresponding Secretary, to whom all communications on the business of the Institute should be addressed.

Oct 31—Staww

WANTED.—A Situation as Teacher of English, Mathematics, and Latin; also, the rudiments of Greek, if desired. All of which will be taught in the most appropriate manner.

The applicant is an experienced teacher, of good address, and will furnish the best references, both in regard to character and ability.

Notice to be given in the office of the Institute, or to the undersigned.

For particulars, address SETH FRANK, Dec 5—4f Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

UNDER GARMENTS FOR THE SEASON.—The largest and best assortment of all qualities, will be found at

WALL & STEPHENS, 322, Penn. avenue, next door to Iron Hall.

Jan 5 (News)

FOR RENT, OR SALE.—The Modern Four-story BRICK HOUSE on Thirtieth street, near E. side. The house is in good repair, and is a good investment. It will be low. Possession given November 1st. Apply to

JAS. C. McGUIRE, Auctioneer.

THIS is to give notice that the following original Virginia Military Revolutionary Land Warrants, viz:

No. 662 for 100 acres, issued in the name of Daniel Thomas;

No. 533 for 100 acres, issued in the name of Thos. Cole;

No. 279 for 100 acres, issued in the name of Dun- can Brown;

No. 648 for 100 acres, issued in the name of Thos. Edwards;

have been accidentally lost or destroyed, and they hereby notify all parties that if shall make application to the Land Office for the issue of new duplicates of said warrants, under the provisions of the act of the 31st August, 1852.

A. NICOL, Attorney for the Claimant.

THE FAILURE OF Free Society.—Sociology for the South, or the Failure of Free Society, by George Fitzhugh. On sale at TAYLOR & MAURY'S, Book Store, near 9th street.

Jan 13—3mlaw

OUT-DOORS at Idlewild; or, the Shadow of Home on the banks of the Hudson, by N. P. Willis.

Maxims of Washington; political, social, moral, and religious, collected by Dr. Schroeder.

The Run of the World; or, Life among the Flowers, by Laura Greenwood.

Beautiful Bertha, a new story, by Mrs. Tuthill. Only a Dandelion, and other Stories, by the author of Flower and the Flower.

Pray and Work, then God will help, a series of Story Books for Children, by Sarah A. Myers.

The Wanderers by Sea and Land, with other Tales, by Peter Parley.

Faggots for the Fireside, or Fact and Fancy, by Peter Parley.

A Winter Wreath of Summer Flowers, by S. G. Goodrich.

We are now receiving our stock of Family and Pocket Bibles, Prayer Books, superbly bound copies of the Poets, and other standard and illustrated works for the holidays.

GRAY & BALLANTYNE, Bookellers, 498 7th st.

Dec 3—3t

TAKE NOTICE.—Housekeepers and others are reminded that the following list of articles are of the very best description, and can be purchased from the subscriber on as low terms as any other house in the city. A large assortment of goods always on hand.

Leaves from the Tree of Life, by Martha Russell.

Just received and for sale by R. FARNHAM, Nov 12—11f

FURNISHED ROOMS FOR RENT.—A Parlor and one or two Chambers, on the first floor; and on the second floor two Chambers. May be had separately, or of the whole together. Please inquire of Mrs. John P. Van Ness, on Missouri avenue, between 44 and 5th streets.

Dec 14—24

HARPER'S MAGAZINE for September is a magnificent number, filled with superior engravings, and for sale at Shillington's bookstore.

The great Illustrated Magazine of Art for September is one of the best that has been issued. Leslie's Ladies' Gazette for September contains all the new Fall fashions.

The Knickerbocker Magazine for September. Godey's Lady's Book, Graham's Magazine, and Putnam's Magazine, all for September, received and for sale at